Rural Sports Clubs

The principal objective of this scheme is to help the emergence of a countrywide network of Sports Club Culture for channelizing the energies of youth for constructive activities on one hand and exploring and nurturing sports talent in rural and tribal areas on the others. Funds to the tune of Rs.30,000/- (normal area) and Rs.45,000/- (tribal area) are earmarked for each such club. NYKS has been entrusted with the responsibility to implement this scheme.

Gradation of cricketers

2379. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BCCI has decided to grade cricket players in three categories in the matter of salaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cricket players are not happy about the gradation and also about the reduction of match fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Board of Control for cricket in India (BCCI), BCCI would be entering into a yearly contract with maximum of 20 leading cricketers of the country and the retainership would be paid in three categories on the basis of their performances. This would be in addition to regular match fees and daily allowances.

(c) and (d) The BCCI has also informed that the matter pertaining to gradation of cricketers based on performance is under discussion with the players and there is no reduction in the match fees of the players. BCCI does not have any report about any player being unhappy over the proposed contract system.

(e) The issues relates entirely to the internal functioning of the BCCI, an autonomous body. The Government has no role in this regard.